

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) Δ [[P]]process for obtaining finished granules of a predetermined substance in a granulation fluid bed, (F1) ~~of the so-called vertical-growth-type,~~ said granulation fluid bed being formed and maintained by a respective flow of fluidification air, the process comprising a transfer phase by falling of said the steps of:

transferring finished granules in a pressurized space below said granulation fluid bed by falling of said finished granules through suitably sized openings of a base plate on which said granulation fluid bed is formed; and a recovery phase of

recovering said granules from said pressurized space, characterized in that wherein said recovery phase step further comprises:

a) ~~the formation in~~ collecting said finished granules said pressurized space [[of]]in a collection fluid bed of said finished granules, said collection fluid bed being formed and maintained through at least part of said fluidification air; and

b) ~~extraction~~ extracting in continuous flow of said finished granules from said collection fluid bed (F2) ~~and from the respective to the outside of said pressurized space through a well arranged outside said pressurized space and in fluid communication with; placing the base plate of said collection fluid bed (F2) in fluid communication with a well (45), outside said pressurized space, fed substantially upstream from with~~ the finished granules of said collection fluid bed (F2).

2. (Currently amended) The [[P]]process for obtaining finished granules of a predetermined substance according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ all of the fluidification air of the granulation fluid bed (F1) is used for the fluidification of the collection fluid bed (F2) for the finished granules.

3. (Currently amended) An ~~[[A]]~~ apparatus for obtaining finished granules of a predetermined substance in a granulation fluid bed ~~(F1) of the so-called vertical growth type;~~ comprising:

a self-supporting structure (2) substantially shaped like a container, defining a space (A) inside of it, in which a shelf (9) is positioned, equipped with a plurality of classification slits (9a) and intended to support a granulation fluid bed; ~~(F1), characterized in that it comprises, in said space (A);~~

a base plate (7); located in said space and permeable to gaseous flows, extending below and in a predetermined spaced relationship from said shelf (9) until it said base plate goes beyond a wall (5) of said container (2) by a portion of predetermined length, said base plate (7) being intended to support a respective collection fluid bed ~~(F2)~~ of finished granules~~[[,]]~~;

a well (45), open at the top, extending outside of said space (A) and in fluid communication with it said space through a passage (25) provided in said wall (5) at said base plate (7).

means for feeding ~~(14, 80a)~~ a flow of fluidification air, a distribution chamber ~~(8, 80)~~ of said fluidification air in said space (A) and in said well (45).

4. (Currently amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said wall (5) has a lower side (5a), spaced from said base plate (7) defining said passage (25) which places ~~the aforementioned~~ said space (A) in communication with the outside of said container (2).

5. (Currently amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ apparatus according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said well (45), comprises a vertical panel (35), outside of said space (A), in a predetermined spaced relationship to said front wall (5) and ~~preferably parallel to it~~, fixed to said base plate (7).

6. (Currently amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ apparatus according to claim ~~[[3]]~~5, ~~characterized in that,~~ further comprising a second base plate associated with said base plate (7), in a predetermined spaced relationship from it, ~~there is a~~ said second base plate (7a) provided tilted on said base plate (7) and converging towards said vertical panel (35), to define said distribution chamber (8) of said fluidification air.

7. (Withdrawn) The ~~[[A]]~~ apparatus according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said base plate (7), permeable to gas flows, intended to support a respective collection fluid bed (F2), extends in said well (45) and inside said space (A), going beyond said wall (5) by an appropriate predetermined portion of limited length, said apparatus comprising transportation devices (30) of the finished granules, to feed said finished granules, transferred from the granulation fluid bed (F1), to said collection fluid bed (F2), said transportation devices (30) being provided in said space (A) below said shelf (9) of the container (2).

8. (New) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said vertical panel is parallel to said front wall.